

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Government Reform Committee Approves** **Reauthorization of Office of National Drug Control Policy** *Comprehensive Drug Oversight Now Includes the 'Clean Sports Act,' Which Sets Minimum Standards and Tough Penalties for Steroid Testing in Sports*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Government Reform Committee today unanimously approved H.R. 2829, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act

The legislation reauthorizes the Office of National Drug Control Policy as the lead agency in the fight against illegal drug use and many of the programs administered by ONDCP, including the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (which involves coordination among federal, state and local law enforcement), the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center, and the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign (which coordinates anti-drug advertising).

In addition, the legislation now includes the “Clean Sports Act of 2005,” which was approved last month by the Committee as H.R. 2565. The Clean Sports Act sets strict, uniform standards – at least as stringent as Olympic standards -- for testing for performance-enhancing drugs and penalizing violators. The legislation applies to the four major professional American sports – baseball, football, basketball and hockey – but also authorizes the ONDCP Director to require compliance from additional professional sports and/or NCAA Division I or II athletics.

“Having the Drug Czar’s office take the lead role in establishing and certifying uniform drug-testing policies across sports is consistent with our message from the start: that this inquiry is about public health education and national drug control policy,” Chairman Davis said.

The reauthorization of the ONDCP has to go through several other committees before reaching the House floor. This will give other Members of Congress a chance to review both the national drug control policy and the Clean Sports Act provisions.

“We look forward to working with all other interested parties in Congress to pass this legislation,” Davis said. “It is my understanding that some are interested in enhancing Drug Enforcement Agency authorities over the use of steroids, others are considering revisions to the

penalty structure for testing positive, and others would like to more carefully consider the inclusion of college athletics in the legislation. Making the Clean Sports Act part of our national drug control program gives Members an opportunity to address these options as the reauthorization of ONDCP moves toward passage.”

Last year, the House passed legislation to reauthorize ONDCP and its programs (H.R. 2086, passed on September 30, 2003), but the Senate did not act on similar legislation.

In approving H.R. 2829 today, the Committee accepted three amendments offered by Democratic members. These amendments would require disclosure on any advertisement paid for by the ONDCP, require the Director to consult with the National Academies of Science about the effect of needle-exchange programs, and require an evaluation of the environmental effects of micro herbicides used to kill drug crops.

Also today, the Committee approved a Report on the National Drug Control Strategy for 2005 and the National Drug Control Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. The report will be available on the Committee’s website: <http://reform.house.gov/>

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